

Version with markings to show changes

TITLE

Pekin Lilac Tree Named 'SunDak'

GENUS AND SPECIES

[0001] *Syringa pekinensis*

CULTIVAR DENOMINATION

[0002] 'SunDak'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of Pekin lilac tree, botanically known as *Syringa pekinensis*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'SunDak'. 'SunDak' is a product of a planned tree selection program which had the objective of creating a new cultivar of Pekin lilac tree having striking coppery-bronze exfoliating bark pattern, improved winter hardiness and various aesthetic qualities as listed in the Detailed Description of the Plant.

[0004] The new cultivar is a selection of *Syringa pekinensis*, and was discovered by applicant among seedlings grown from parental trees growing on the North Dakota State University (NDSU) campus and was transplanted on May 16, 1983 to the NDSU campus.

[0005] The first act of asexual reproduction of 'SunDak' was accomplished by grafting onto *Syringa pekinensis* rootstocks by applicant from the initial selection on February 8, 1996 in a controlled environment at NDSU, Fargo, North Dakota. Horticultural examination of selected units initiated on June 29, 1999 has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for 'SunDak' are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

[0006] 'SunDak' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, and day length. The following observations, measurements and comparisons describe the plant grown on the NDSU campus or plants grown under greenhouse/field conditions, which approximate those generally used in commercial practices.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0007] This new lilac tree is illustrated by the accompanying photographs which show the entire tree, close-up of the flower panicles, trunk, close-up of the trunk showing exfoliating bark patterns and a close-up of the seed clusters (capsules). The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

FIG 1 shows the complete tree in dense foliage;

FIG 2 is a close-up of the dense foliage with flower panicles;

FIG 3 shows the trunk;

FIG 4 is a close-up of the trunk showing exfoliating bark patterns; and

FIG 5 is a close-up of the seed clusters (capsules).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

[0008] The following traits and characteristics describe the new cultivar. Color references are to the RHS Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (RHS).

[0009] Classification:

Origin - - Species is native to China; this selection originated from seed collected ~~off of~~ from trees growing on the NDSU campus for over 50 years.

Parentage - - Seed parent: *Syringa pekinensis* – Pekin Lilac

Pollen parent: *Syringa pekinensis* – Pekin Lilac

Species - - *Syringa pekinensis*

Common names - - Pekin Lilac

Commercial name - - Copper Curls™ Pekin Lilac

[0010] Trunk

Multiple stem - - ~~Yes, two~~ Two main trunks forming clump

Size -- At 21 years of age ~~old~~, average diameter of two trunks, 19.1 cm

Bark - - Coppery-orange (ranges from RHS ~~Greyed Orange Group~~ 164A to 165B), average length of exfoliating sheets 3.6 cm

Height - - At 21 years old = 8.1m; width = 6.2m

Growth Habit or Form - - Upright, broadly oval to rounded

Growth rate - - 35 cm per year under sod conditions

[0011] Trunk lenticels:

Length - - Average = 8 mm on a trunk of 9 cm diameter

Shape - - Torpedo-like

Texture - - Slightly raised from the bark with a rough texture

Color - - Greyed-orange (RHS 165D)

Quantity - - 150 lenticels/30 cm of trunk length on 9 cm diameter trunk

[0014] [0012] Branches:

Angle of attachment - - Average angle of 13 branched pairs = 33.0°

Spacing - - Variable

Size - - Crown diameter of tree, 6.2 m; height = 8.1 m

Surface texture - - Smooth

Bark - - Coppery-orange (RHS Greyed-Orange Group 164A to 165B)

[0012] [0013] Branch Lenticels:

Size - - ~~Range from 3 mm to 8 mm; average = 5mm~~ Average = 3 mm on branches having a 3 cm diameter

Shape - - Torpedo-like

Texture - - Slightly raised from the bark with a rough texture

Color - - ~~Beige~~ Greyed-orange (RHS 165D)

Quantity — Plentiful

[0013] [0014] Foliage:

Size of leaf:

Length - - Range 4.0 – 7.6 cm, average 6.1 cm

Width - - Range 2.4 - 7.3 cm, average 4.1 cm

Shape of leaf - - Ovate to ovate-lanceolate

Margin - - Entire

Texture - - Medium

Pubescence distribution - - None (glabrous)

Color - - Upper side, Green (ranges from RHS Green Group 137A/B 137A to 137B)

Petiole — ~~Range from 8-30 mm; average 18 mm long~~

Petiole:Length - - Ranges from 8 to 30 mm; average = 18 mmDiameter - - 1 mmSurface texture - - SmoothColor - - Olive green (RHS 152C)

Rib and veins - - Scarcely veined

Thorns and spines - - None

Buds - - Variably ovate

Size - - Length averages 4.2 mm; width averages 3.0 mm

Scales - - 12 scales per budColor - - Ranges from RHS Greyed Orange Group 164A/B 164A to164BLeaf scar - - Crescent-shaped**[0014] [0015] Flower**

Color - - Creamy-white (RHS White Group 155D)

Shape - - Oblong-conical to pyramidal to nearly globose panicle containing many florets.

Size - - Length: Range of 10.2 cm to 23.4 cm; average = 15.6 cm

Width: Range of 10.2 cm to 23.4 cm; average = 16.7 cm

[0015] [0016] Fruit

Shape - - Oblong-conical to pyramidal to nearly globose, containing many capsules

Texture of capsule - - Slightly rough due to the presence of numerous tiny lenticel-like protuberances dotting the entire surface of the capsule

Size - - Length: Range from 9.0 cm to 22.2 cm; average = 14.4 cm

Width: Range of 9.0 cm to 22.2 cm; average = 15.5 cm

Fruit Structure - - Two-celled oblong capsule

Size: Range of 14 to 20 mm; average = 17 mm long

Color: Ranges from RHS Greyed Orange Group 164B/C to 165 B/C 164B to 165C

[0016] [0017] Seed

Size - - Length: Range of 13 to 16 mm; average = 14.8 mm

Width: Range of 4 to 7 mm; average = 6.0 mm

[0017] [0018] Insect And Disease Resistance

No apparent disease or insect problems to date.

COMPARISON WITH MOST SIMILAR CULTIVAR

[0019] 'Sundak' is different from its parents in having very bright coppery-orange bark that exfoliates dramatically. It is cold hardy to USDA zone 3 to which its parents are not.

[0018] [0020] Of the commercial lilac trees known to the applicant, the most similar in comparison to 'SunDak' are the cultivars *Syringa pekinensis* 'Morton' – China Snow® and *Syringa pekinensis* 'DTR 124' – Summer Charm® (US Plant Patent 8,951). China Snow® is characterized by upright, rounded form with cherry-like, amber-colored, exfoliating bark. Summer Charm® is reputed to be a small, spreading tree with attractive smooth bark, and dark green, lustrous foliage with no mention of exfoliating bark. Compared to these two cultivars, 'SunDak' has a number of important attributes such as:

- 1) Striking, distinctly coppery-orange exfoliating bark pattern; the bark with its attractive sheen tends to peel and separate in shaggy curls;
- 2) Large, attractive, abundantly-produced, creamy-white flower panicles;
- 3) Attractive seed clusters (capsules) which change from green to tannish-brown and cling to the branches for added winter effect;
- 4) Upright, broadly oval to rounded form;
- 5) Typically grows multiple-trunked; and
- 6) Improved winter hardiness (-34° to -37°C).

CLAIM

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct *Syringa pekinensis* (Pekin lilac) tree as shown and described herein.

ABSTRACT

[0019] [0021] 'SunDak' is a new cultivar of *Syringa pekinensis*, Pekin lilac tree. This new cultivar has a coppery-orange exfoliating bark pattern that separates into shaggy curls; large, abundantly produced creamy-white flower panicles; attractive seed capsules; upright broadly-oval to rounded form; typically grows multiple-trunked and with improved winter hardiness.